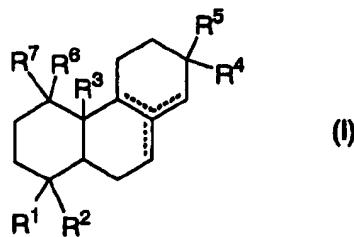


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Withdrawn) A Method of opening potassium channels, which comprises administering an effective amount of a compound represented by the formula [I]:

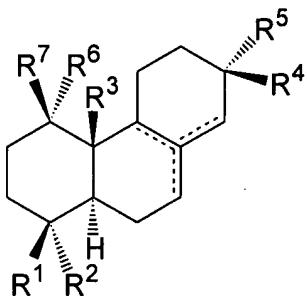


wherein R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde or nitrile; or R⁴ and R⁵ may be bonded to each other to form a ring; or R⁶ and R⁷ may be bonded to each other to form a ring;

and all of three bonds represented by --- are single bonds, or one of the three bonds is double bond and the other bonds are single bonds,

or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof to a mammal including a human in need thereof.

13. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 12, wherein the compound is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein R² is hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, acyl, carboxyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide or nitrile;

R¹, R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁷ are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxy carbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde or nitrile; or R⁴ and R⁵ may be bonded to each other to form a ring; or R⁶ and R⁷ may be bonded to each other to form a ring;

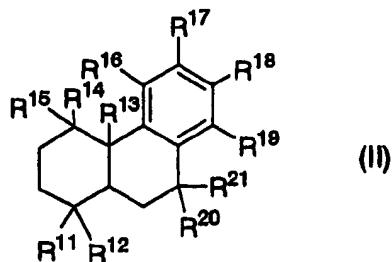
and all of three bonds represented by --- are single bonds, or one of the three bonds is double bond and the other bonds are single bonds.

14. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 12 or 13, wherein R¹, R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are alkyl or alkenyl, R⁶ and R⁷ are hydrogen and R² is carboxyl, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

15. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 12 or 13, wherein the compound is a substance selected from the group consisting of the following compounds: (1) a compound wherein R¹ is alkyl, R² is carboxyl, R³ is alkyl, R⁴ is alkenyl, R⁵ is alkyl, and R⁶ and R⁷ are hydrogen, (2) a compound wherein R¹ is alkyl, R² is carboxyl, R³ is alkyl, R⁴ is alkyl, R⁵ is alkenyl, and R⁶ and R⁷ are hydrogen, and (3) a compound wherein R¹ is alkyl, R² is carboxyl, R³ is alkyl, R⁴ is alkyl, R⁵ is alkyl, and R⁶ and R⁷ are hydrogen, and a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

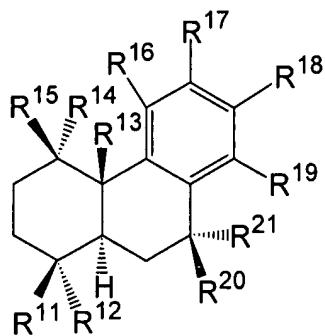
16. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 12, wherein the compound is a substance selected from the group consisting of pimamic acid, dihydropimamic acid, dihydroisopimarinol, sandaracopimamic acid, isopimamic acid, and dihydroisopimamic acid, and a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

17. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) A method of ~~opening potassium channels, treatment of hypertension including essential hypertension, tonic bladder, disturbances of peripheral circulation, airway hyperresponsiveness, sensory neuron hypersensitivity, central spasm or ischemic central nervous system disorder~~, which comprises administering a compound represented by the following formula (II):



wherein R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} , R^{18} , R^{19} , R^{20} and R^{21} are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxycarbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde or nitrile; or R^{20} and R^{21} may be bonded to each other to form oxo, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient.

18. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 17, wherein the compound is a compound represented by the formula:



wherein R^{12} is acyl, carboxyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide or nitrile; R^{11} , R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} , R^{18} , R^{19} , R^{20} and R^{21} are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, halogen, hydroxy, halogenated alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminoalkyl, alkoxy, aryl,

heteroaryl, acyl, carboxyl, alkoxy carbonyl, hydroxamate, sulfo, carbamoyl, sulfonamide, aldehyde or nitrile; or R²⁰ and R²¹ may be bonded to each other to form oxo.

19. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 17 or 18, wherein R¹¹, R¹³, and R¹⁸ are alkyls, R¹² is carboxyl, R¹⁴, R¹⁵ and R¹⁶ are hydrogen, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

20. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 17 or 18, wherein R¹¹, R¹³ and R¹⁸ are alkyls, R¹² is carboxyl, R¹⁴, R¹⁵, R¹⁶, R²⁰, and R²¹ are hydrogen, and R¹⁷ and R¹⁹ are halogen, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

21. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 12 or 17, wherein the potassium channels are calcium-activated potassium channels.

22. **(Withdrawn; Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 12 or 17, which method is for ~~prevention and/or~~ treatment of essential hypertension, tonic bladder, airway hyperresponsiveness, or ischemic central nervous system disorder.

23. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 17, wherein said compound is dichlorodehydroabietic acid.